

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] A method for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee of an enterprise creating
3 an original order for goods and services for end-use by said
4 individual employee determine that a resulting invoice
5 should be paid or not, comprising the steps of:

6 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
7 system from said individual employee a requisition for
8 goods or services from a vendor;

9 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
10 from said requisition a purchase order;

11 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
12 submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an
13 EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said
14 vendor;

15 receiving from said vendor an invoice for said goods or
16 services as one of an electronic invoice and a paper
17 invoice, said electronic invoice being received for
18 processing by said enterprise accounting and catalog
19 system and said paper invoice being received for

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20 processing to said enterprise accounting and catalog
21 system by accounts payable personnel;

22 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for
23 said goods or services ordered by said individual
24 employee;

25 storing said invoice image in an image store;

26 keying said image to invoice data;

27 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
28 communicating by electronic mail an invoice
29 confirmation request to said individual creating said
30 original order, said request instructing said
31 individual employee to log on to said enterprise
32 accounting and catalog system, including said invoice
33 data and a link to said invoice image, and specifying
34 that said invoice is subject to one of negative
35 confirmation and positive confirmation processing, said
36 negative confirmation processing including advising
37 said individual employee via e-mail that said invoice
38 is confirmed unless specifically not approved by said
39 individual employee, and said positive confirmation
40 processing including advising said individual employee
41 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said
42 individual employee of approval;

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43 providing at a user workstation a search interface in
44 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said
45 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to
46 images of invoices that match said criteria be
47 displayed at said user workstation; and

48 responsive to selection of a link by said individual,
49 displaying said invoice image for approval by said
50 individual creating said original order selectively by
51 said negative confirmation and positive confirmation
52 processing.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 3. [Currently amended] The method of claim 2, further
2 comprising the step of:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look and feel of a

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6 paper invoice.

1 4. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, said
2 invoice confirmation request advising said individual
3 employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 5. [Previously presented] The method of claim 4, said
2 invoice confirmation request further advising said
3 individual employee to log on to a front-end requisition and
4 catalog server to view invoices for confirmation.

1 6. [Previously presented] The method of claim 5, further
2 comprising the step responsive to said individual employee
3 logging on to said front-end server of displaying a list of
4 invoices awaiting confirmation and responsive to user
5 selection of a selected invoice, presenting images of
6 invoices corresponding to links selected by said individual
7 employee.

1 7. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the steps of presenting to said individual
3 employee an interface for selecting images of invoices
4 matching a selection criteria.

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1 8. [Canceled]

1 9. [Currently amended] A system for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee creating an original order
3 for goods or services for end use by said individual
4 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,
5 comprising:

6 a front-end requisition and catalog system;

7 a back-end procurement services system;

8 a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

9 an image system and store for storing said scanned
10 images and serving them to said workstation keyed to
11 said invoice;

12 a workstation selectively receiving user entry from
13 said individual employee of a requisition request for
14 goods or services for end-use by said individual
15 employee, receiving confirmation requests, and viewing
16 images of invoices from said image system and store;
17 said confirmation request instructing said individual

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18 employee to log on to said back-end system to view and
19 approve an invoice by a specified one of negative and
20 positive confirmation processing, said negative
21 confirmation processing including advising said
22 individual employee via e-mail that said invoice is
23 confirmed unless specifically not approved by said
24 individual employee, and said positive confirmation
25 processing including advising said individual employee
26 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said
27 individual employee of approval;

28 said front-end system selectively receiving said
29 requisition requests from said workstation, forwarding
30 said requisition requests to said back-end system, and
31 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end
32 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

33 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase
34 orders against said requisitions to a vendor
35 selectively as one of an electronic and paper purchase
36 order, receiving and processing invoices electronic
37 invoices directly from said vendor and paper invoices
38 as received and processed by accounts payable
39 personnel, keying invoice images to invoice
40 information, and processing confirmation requests to
41 said front-end system for communication to said
42 workstation for approval by said individual employee

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43 creating said original order.

1 10. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform a method for processing
4 invoices by having the individual employee creating an
5 original order as an end user of a commodity or service
6 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,
7 said method comprising:

8 preparing an invoice image;

9 storing said invoice image in an image store;

10 keying said image to invoice data;

11 communicating invoice confirmation request to said
12 individual employee, said request including said
13 invoice data and a link to said invoice image;

14 responsive to requester selection of said link,
15 displaying said invoice image to said individual
16 employee for approval by said individual employee
17 creating said original order according to a specified
18 confirmation process consisting of one of a negative
19 confirmation process including advising said individual

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20 employee via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed
21 unless specifically not approved by said individual
22 employee, and a positive confirmation process including
23 advising said individual employee that said invoice
24 will be confirmed upon entry by said individual
25 employee of approval.

1 11. [Currently amended] A computer program product or
2 computer program element for processing invoices by having
3 the individual employee creating an original order for goods
4 and services for end-use by said individual employee
5 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not
6 according to steps comprising:

7 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
8 system from said individual employee a requisition for
9 goods or services from a vendor;

10 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
11 from said requisition a purchase order;

12 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
13 submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an
14 EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said
15 vendor;

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16 receiving from said vendor an invoice for said goods or
17 services as one of an electronic invoice and a paper
18 invoice, said electronic invoice being received for
19 processing by said enterprise accounting and catalog
20 system and said paper invoice being received for
21 processing to said enterprise accounting and catalog
22 system by accounts payable personnel;

23 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for
24 said goods or services ordered by said individual
25 employee;

26 storing said invoice image in an image store;

27 keying said image to invoice data;

28 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
29 communicating by electronic mail communicating an
30 invoice confirmation request to said individual
31 employee, said request instructing said individual
32 employee to log on to said enterprise accounting and
33 catalog system, including said invoice data and a link
34 to said invoice image, and specifying that said invoice
35 is subject to one of negative confirmation and positive
36 confirmation processing, said negative confirmation
37 processing including advising said individual employee
38 via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed unless

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39 specifically not approved by said individual employee,
40 and said positive confirmation processing including
41 advising said individual employee that said invoice
42 will be confirmed upon entry by said individual
43 employee of approval;

44 providing at a user workstation a search interface in
45 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said
46 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to
47 images of invoices that match said criteria be
48 displayed at said user workstation; and

49 responsive to selection of a link by said individual
50 employee, displaying said invoice image for approval by
51 said individual employee creating said original order
52 selectively by said negative confirmation and positive
53 confirmation processing.

1 12. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 13. [Currently amended] The program storage device of

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2 claim 12, said method further comprising:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look and feel of a
6 paper invoice.

1 14. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said invoice confirmation request advising said
3 individual employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 15. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 14, said invoice confirmation request further advising
3 said individual employee to log on to a front- end
4 requisition and catalog server to view invoices for
5 confirmation.

1 16. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 15, said method further comprising responsive to said
3 individual employee logging on to said front-end server of
4 displaying a list of invoices awaiting confirmation and
5 responsive to selection of a selected invoice by said
6 individual employee, presenting images of invoices

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7 corresponding to links selected by said individual employee.

1 17. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising presenting to said
3 individual employee an interface for selecting images of
4 invoices matching a selection criteria.

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